

Board of Commissioners
January 7, 2008 – 8:53 am

Meeting called to order by President Rininger. Commissioners Rininger, Logsdon, Gogel, and Board Attorney Lueken were present.

Minutes

Logsdon clarified and asked for a change in the minutes dated 12/4/2007 in the section discussing the old jail. 12/3/2007, 12/4/2007, 12/18/2007, 12/18/2007, 12/18/2007 – Logsdon made a motion to approve after the change. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Logsdon stated that in the 12/04/2007 minutes a finance committee was put together to explore the financing of the possible public safety building. He encouraged Gogel to have the committee start meeting soon. Gogel stated he is trying to get something set up for this month. Logsdon stated that even though he probably asked the question if the county storage needs are greater than the need for a rehabilitation program, he certainly does not feel that way. He stated that if one person can be saved it is worth it, but he does not want to lose sight of the storage needs. Logsdon also commented on the mention of the Surveyor's vehicle on 12/04/2007. Discussion was had on how much influence the commissioners have over elected officials who use county owned vehicles. Lueken stated that the commissioners have control over any county owned vehicles.

Animal Control Ordinance

Lueken stated that he has made changes on the previously submitted Animal Control Ordinance. The first change is under the Animals at Large Section and the Public Nuisance Animals. It was changed to include wording that these animals can be impounded. The second change was in the Vicious Animals section. Lueken included the opportunity of animal owners to come before a hearing authority. Gogel made a motion to table the discussion until the Animal Control Board has the opportunity to review the changes made. Logsdon seconded. All in favor. Gogel made a motion to have Shelton put the proposed ordinance on the website. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Property Maintenance Ordinance

Debbie Steinkamp explained that Lueken suggested changes to the ordinance for it to be upheld in a court of law. People need to have the opportunity to have a public hearing and the commissioners have to decide whether they want to be the final authority or if they want to give the final say to the hearing authority. Lueken stated that the enforcement has to follow the constitution and have a paper trail showing that it has done so. Discussion was had on the need for the ordinance. The commissioners agreed that if the ordinance is needed then they would be the final hearing authority. The hearings would be scheduled before or after the commissioners meeting held on the third Tuesday of the month. Discussion was had on possible zoning changes that would help. Gogel stated that he thinks communication between neighbors would be a better way to handle the problems. Logsdon stated that every year there is a river sweep with many people involved to clean up the river banks. He stated that maybe a county wide community pride program could be started. Logsdon further stated that he is concerned that the people who would be cited with violations are the ones with the least means of paying fines. Lueken stated that the objective would be to get the trash cleaned up or weeds cut. Steinkamp was told to proceed with the draft. Logsdon made a motion to have Shelton post the proposed ordinance on the website. Rininger seconded. All in favor. Gogel further questioned the need for the ordinance.

Community Corrections Board

Prosecutor Jon Dartt stated that the Community Corrections Board has completed interviews and recommends the hiring of Janice Weber as the Director of Community Corrections. Dartt also presented the list of current employees which will be moving into a position under Community Corrections. Logsdon made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Dartt also stated that the Community Corrections Board is recommending the lease of the offices above the Prosecutor's office for the Community Corrections Director and other offices. The lease is for \$650 per month for 18 months. Since the Prosecutor's office is handicap accessible, their conference room can be used when needed. Logsdon questioned if the lease will be paid for with the grant. Dartt said yes, and 25% of the grant has already been sent to the county to enable them to get started. The lease would begin on January 15th enabling

them to get started as soon as possible. The wording in the lease is the same as the lease for the Prosecutor's office. Gogel made a motion to approve and sign the lease. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Logsdon asked how people of the county can be informed of the purpose and importance of the work of Community Corrections which is to improve the recidivism rate in the county. The county needs to help people become employable because they are coming back to the county anyway. If they are employable they are less of a threat. He asked how the county removes that fear factor the community has if one of the former offenders is employed in a building next to them. Gogel stated they need to be contributors to society instead of a burden on society. Rininger stated that the people in this program will not be violent or sex offenders. Dartt stated that communication is important. The county can either keep arresting the same people over and over or we can address the problem. Dartt stated that he knows that there are some people who will not take advantage of the opportunities and will be repeatedly arrested, but there are some that we can help become productive members of society. Data collection will be an important part of Community Corrections.

Highway Report

Painter stated the he has been asked by the Friends of Richland (FOR) if they could put their Neighborhood Watch signs on existing county sign posts. Painter asked for the commissioners' approval to give them posts for the signs and to allow them to put them in the county rights-of-way. All agreed that would be a good idea and told Painter to go ahead.

Rininger asked Painter to check the ditches along CR 200.

Engineer Report

Lloyd stated that there will be a pre-construction meeting with INDOT on the 8th in Tell City regarding the next phase of SR 231 and the commissioners are invited to come.

Lloyd stated that there is a new county road which runs south from the Energy Information Center and it needs to be named. Lloyd recommended it be named CR 75 East. Logsdon told Lloyd to speak to Cail in the Plan Commission and report back to the commissioners.

Lloyd presented the revised letter to Matt Robinson with Capital Engineering regarding the Santa Claus Water Project and will send it out if the commissioners agree. Discussion was had on the bond amount.

Painter stated that bids will be taken next month on a bridge project to be construction in March. The bridge is located north of Mariah Hill on CR 2100 N between CR 700 E and CR 800 E.

Legal Report

Lueken stated that the Plan Commission has recommended An Ordinance Amending the Spencer County Subdivision Ordinance by Altering the Introductory Language Under "Subdivision Exempt." Lueken stated that it is meant to clarify and simplify the definition. Logsdon made a motion to approve Ordinance 2008-01.

Lueken asked for approval for use of money appropriated for legal fees. Logsdon made a motion to use money appropriated to fund the on-going appeal and litigation expenses. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Lueken asked for the commissioners to approve his legal fee agreement which is the same as last year. Discussion was had on staying with a per hour rate or changing to a salary agreement. The discussion was tabled until the February 4th meeting to give Lueken time to research how other county attorneys word salary contract agreements. Until an agreement is reached Lueken will use the current fee structure.

Judge's Bond

Shelton asked the commissioners to sign the 2008 bond for Judge Roell. Logsdon made a motion to sign. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Logsdon made a motion to adjourn. Gogel seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 pm.

Board of Commissioners,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor
